

ity, though I am told it is seen at rare intervals in the woods sixty miles farther south. — WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Chicago, Ill.*

A Bahaman Bird (*Centurus nyeanus*) Apparently Extinct.—The only known specimen of this Woodpecker, I shot on Watling's Island, Bahamas, March 5, 1886. He may have been the last of his kind, for although a week was spent on said island, and a great many holes made by Woodpeckers were seen in the dead trees, still all looked old. None seen were fresh. The one this bird flew out of was made in a dead stump, about fifteen feet high and eighteen inches in diameter; the hole was well up towards the top; the location was about a quarter of a mile from the lighthouse then being erected. During the week spent in collecting, not a Woodpecker of any kind was seen or heard on the island.—WILLARD NYE, JR., *New Bedford, Mass.*

The Chuck-will's-widow on Shipboard.—On a steamer from Savanna, Georgia, to New York, in April, 1898, my father and I made some very interesting observations on the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*). We left Savanna on the 18th of April, and early in the morning of the 19th, when we were about fifty miles from the coast of southern South Carolina, a bird of this species came aboard. My father caught sight of it sailing along a short distance behind the ship, and the next instant it had alighted on the railing of the upper deck not far from where he stood. After sitting there about thirty seconds, it darted downward and disappeared amidst the cargo on the lower deck, and a careful search failed to reveal it.

Several Warblers (*Dendroica striata* and *D. palmarum*), made their appearance during the morning, but the Chuck-will's-widow remained concealed. At two o'clock in the afternoon, however, while we were looking at a beautiful Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*) which had just come aboard, the long sought *Antrostomus* suddenly darted out from the lower deck and flew swiftly away in an easterly direction. We were amazed that it had not started toward land, but thought we had the key to the mystery, when, as the bird began to fade in the distance, it sank closer and closer to the water and at last settled on a wave-top for an instant. The bird seemed to have completely lost its bearings, and found itself too exhausted to fly, and we, thinking that this was the end, returned to our study of the Warbler, which had grown completely tame, and was catching flies at the feet of the passengers. A minute later our eyes lighted on a dark speck in the air off to the eastward, and we soon recognized the Chuck-will's-widow, flying lightly and strongly, and heading toward the ship. In a short time it had reached us, but instead of alighting, it swept over the top deck and kept on over the sea to the westward, and soon disappeared in the distance. This time, however, we expected it back, and sure enough, within three minutes we saw it sailing along over the ocean west of us far ahead of the ship, and flying in a

direction parallel to the ship's course. It soon turned, however, and presently joined us, and from that time on was seldom out of sight for more than five minutes at a time. Sometimes it would dash the length of the hurricane deck, under the awning, and literally fan the faces of the passengers with its wings; and again it would follow in the ship's wake for a few minutes, flying at a height of about forty feet above the water. Occasionally it would rest for awhile on the rigging or top deck, and then be off again over the ocean, coursing about with a free, easy flight, somewhat like that of a Bonaparte's Gull, but with an element of the straightforward flapping and sailing of a Hawk or Owl. We soon learned about how soon to expect it back, after one of its flights, but it was quite as likely to come back from a corner opposite to that in which we had seen it disappear. Occasionally it would drop lightly into the water, as it did when it made the first flight to seaward at two o'clock, and it was evident, that, unnatural as this seemed, it did it for pleasure, and not from exhaustion, as we had previously supposed. Its whole manner was one of complete ease and grace, as though it were a sea-bird, and entirely accustomed to following ships in broad daylight; indeed, it seemed to be more willing to leave the vicinity of the ship for minutes at a time, than any Gull or Petrel. And this was a Chuck-will's-widow, that strictly nocturnal, forest-loving bird, to be found in the daytime only in the hollow of some tree, or on the ground in the shadiest parts of the woods!

At about five o'clock the idea occurred to me that there might be more than one, for although the bird was fully as active in its excursions, often disappearing in the distance, there seemed always to be one near us. Resolved to determine this point, I climbed up to the superstructure, where I could get a good view of the whole ship and surrounding ocean. The Chuck-will's-widow had just come back from an unusually long flight, and had alighted on a rope about ten feet above the deck on which I stood. After watching some time for others, and not seeing any, I tried to see how near I could get to the perching bird. The rope on which it sat was stretched at an angle of about 45° from the deck to a point twelve feet up a mast, and the bird was perched *crosswise* on it a few feet from the top. Beside the mast stood a large ventilating funnel, and by keeping on the opposite side of this, I was enabled to creep up unobserved to within twelve feet of the bird. When I had gotten as near as possible, I cautiously peered out from behind the funnel, and had a good look at a beautiful female Chuck-will's-widow. It was so near that I could see every marking and every slightest motion. Occasionally she would half open her great mouth, as though yawning, and the curious barbed bristles fringing it would vibrate like the antennæ of a moth. Finding that she did not take alarm at my presence, I stepped out from behind the funnel, and got exactly under the bird, but she showed no signs of agitation, beyond opening to her full, her beautiful deep eyes, which up to that time had been half shut. Having studied her as long as

I wished to, I was turning to go, when I saw a second one, closely followed by a third, dash past the bow, and over the fore part of the ship. One of them alighted on the railing of the bridge, while the other kept on over the sea for some distance. From that time on I frequently saw them together, and found that there were two females and one male.

All this happened in bright afternoon sunlight, before half past five o'clock. The following other birds were on the ship at this time. A Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*), an adult male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*), a full-plumaged Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*), a Yellow-winged Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*), a Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), and a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*); making, with a Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) and some Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) which we had seen in the morning, and the Chuck-will's-widows, nine species of land-birds which had rested on the ship during the day.

As twilight came on, the Chuck-will's-widows spent more time about the ship and less over the water, and we found that they were feeding on large beetles which were flying around over the decks. Suddenly as we were watching one of these birds, an officer of the ship called to us from the other side of the deck: "Did you see that Hawk catch that little bird?" And he then told us that he had seen the 'Hawk' chase one of the small birds out over the sea and swallow it, or at any rate the bird had suddenly disappeared when its pursuer was almost on top of it. A moment later two sailors, who had been on the deck below, came up and asked our informant if he had seen the big bird catch the little one, and when questioned by us, they described it exactly as he had done. Soon afterwards, when I was standing on the superstructure, a Warbler, which I took to be the Hooded, darted past me hotly pursued by a Chuck-will's-widow, and the next instant I plainly saw it seized upon and swallowed, just as if it had been a moth, though its captor seemed to have some difficulty, as I saw it opening and shutting its mouth when it passed me again a moment later. This was our last observation for the day, as it was getting too dark to see clearly.

The next morning was cold and foggy, and I thought that if the Chuck-will's-widows were anywhere on board, they would be hiding in some sheltered corner. Accordingly I hunted the ship over, paying special attention to corners of the lower deck, but found nothing but a Palm Warbler and a Field Sparrow, and was about to give up the search when I suddenly came upon one of the females squatting under a life-raft. She was apparently benumbed by cold, as I was able to get within three feet before she flew, and almost caught her as she dodged out past me from under the raft. She was evidently the only one left on the ship, but whether the others had been caught by the ship's cat, or had flown away, we never learned. The day was unusually cold, about 45° Fahr., and the solitary *Antrostomus* was quite evidently affected by it. There was a marked difference in her actions, for though she occasionally

left the ship of her own accord, she always immediately fell behind, and seemed to experience great difficulty in regaining it.

Each time she left the ship she seemed to have harder work to get back, and at last, when, after a rest of nearly twenty minutes in the shelter of a heap of sail, she once more darted astern, she seemed to find her strength failing, and made a desperate attempt to reach the ship again. After struggling for some minutes, flying with a weak heavy flight, totally different from that of the day before, and all the time losing ground, she finally disappeared in the fog, and we never saw her again.

This was at about ten in the morning of April 20, off northern Virginia. — GERALD H. THAYER, *Scarborough, N. I.*

Pinicola enucleator canadensis and *Tryngites subruficollis* in Illinois. — It is seldom, indeed, that Illinois is favored with a visit from the Pine Grosbeak, there being to my knowledge only one previous published record of its occurrence in the State. Mr. Harrison Kennicott (who by the way is a nephew of Mr. Robert Kennicott, whose name is a familiar one among ornithologists) informs me by letter, in which he kindly gives me permission to publish this note, that on the 15th of February, while he was out shooting rabbits in the woods near 'The Grove,' Cook County, he came across an unfamiliar bird among a flock of Juncos, which at first sight resembled a Shrike in form. His first shot brought it down and after careful study of Nuttall's 'Manual' he identified it as a young male Pine Grosbeak. He laid it aside to send in for farther comparison but unfortunately the favorite family cat got hold of it and destroyed it completely, eating everything, even to the head and wings. I believe this may be looked upon as a straggling southern record directly attributable to the exceedingly cold wave which prevailed at that time, being the coldest weather, with a single exception, in the history of the State.

A bird which is perhaps almost as infrequently met with by the ornithologists of the State as the foregoing one is the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). It was on Sept. 18, 1898, that a head was handed me, then in a macerated condition, which I was able to identify at once as that of *T. subruficollis*. Mr. Chas. Bandler while out shooting Plover the day previous had come on a pot hunter who was roasting his game, consisting of the specimen here recorded and another one (which was mutilated beyond positive recognition, but which was believed to be the same), in his campfire and muttering because of his poor luck. The head, which was all that was available, Mr. Bandler picked up and it is now in the Field Columbian Museum collection, recorded as from Calumet Lake, Cook County, Illinois. — WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Chicago, Ill.*

Ammodramus nelsoni in Iowa. — I am unable to find any record of the occurrence of this species in our State and it gives me pleasure to